Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 SCCT-01 /093 W

018638

R 041250Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2185 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: ANTI-SADAT CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

- 1. DESPITE MENA ANNOUNCEMENT LATE MAY 2 FOLLOWING PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH MAY 1 THAT EGYPTIAN MEDIA WOULD HENCEFORTH TURN THEIR ATTENTION AWAY FROM COUNTERING LIBYAN CHARGES TO MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS, THERE IS NO SIGN AS OF MAY 4 OF LET-UP IN LIBYAN ANTI-SADAT CAMPAIGN.
- 2. FOLLOWING ARE SOME ANTI-GOE ITEMS FROM PRESS OF MAY 3 AND 4.
- A. PRESS REPORTS THAT ALL EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY BANNED FROM TRAVEL TO LIBYA.
- B. HELWAN WORKERS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN BARRICADING THEMSELVES IN THEIR FACTORIES SINCE APRIL 28.

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C. "TENS" OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE SAID TO HAVE

BEEN ARRESTED AND TORTURED, "MORE THAN TWENTY" FROM AL AZHAR, AND OTHERS FROM CAIRO AND AIN SHEMS UNIVERSITIES, TO PREVENT THEM FROM DEMONSTRATING AGAINST SADAT.

- D. SADAT IS SAID TO HAVE ORDERED "STATE OF ALERT" IN ARMED FORCES, INSTITUTED AFTER "RECENT MILITARY COUP ATTEMPT" (CF. CAIRO 4271) TO BE CONTINUED, AND TO HAVE ORDERED MILITARY UNITS TO LIBYAN BORDER AS A "PROVOCATION". A TOP ARMY COMMANDER IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN NAMED GOVERNOR OF MERSA MATRUH.
- 3. COMMENT: IF EGYPTIAN MEDIA ARE TURNED OFF, QADHAFI WILL COME UNDER PRESSURE TO END HIS ANTI-SADAT CAMPAIGN IN NAME OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO RESIST THIS PRESSURE AS LONG AS HE CAN. LIBYANS SEEM TO BE ENJOYING CAMPAIGN, AND QADHAFI MAY THINK HE HAS BEEN GETTING BEST OF EXCHANGES, WHICH SO FAR HAVE NOT COST HIM MUCH IN THEUWAY OF RETRIBUTION FROM EGYPT.

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